

FOURTH WARD CANDIDATES



IAN THOMAS

Personal: Age 51. He is married to Ellen Thomas. They have a daughter, Emily, and a son, Jack.

Occupation: Transportation consultant

Website: ianfor4th.com

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DARYL DUDLEY

Personal: Age 54. Married to Rita Dudley.

Occupation: Manager of Hy-Vee convenience store at 3120 W. Broadway.

Website: daryldudleyforcouncil.com

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BILL WEITKEMPER

Personal: Age 64. He is married to Judy Weitkemper. They have six children and 14 grandchildren.

Occupation: Retired sewer maintenance supervisor for city of Columbia

Website: voteweitkemper.com/site/Home.html

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DOWNTOWN ZONING

Would consider overlay zoning to discourage overbuilding student housing. Wants to encourage housing downtown for professionals, seniors and families.

Says that the city must embark on revising downtown zoning and that all stakeholders must be included so development, legal, planning, zoning, environmental and resident input are considered.

Says residential construction in C-2 zones is inappropriate without height restrictions and parking and setback requirements.

DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVES

Skeptical of enhanced enterprise zones and other incentives to lure new business. Would prefer to provide incentives to existing employers to expand and hire more workers.

Favors incentives, if necessary, as a means of putting people with less education to work. Would consider incentives on an individual basis.

Opposes incentives for new businesses. Says the city shouldn't give public money to private enterprises.

AIRPORT

Says terminal upgrades are necessary but shouldn't cost many millions of dollars. Supports expanding air traffic and bringing in new airlines but reluctant to provide incentives such as revenue guarantees.

Favors making the terminal ADA compliant and fixing it up, but not spending \$17 million to do so. Wants more airlines flying in and out at prices that will make the airport competitive.

Says that the terminal should be ADA accessible, that the city should explore regional ownership of the airport and that the mayor should cede management to professionals. Opposes revenue guarantees to airlines.

BUS SYSTEM

Says the city should bring in a consultant to assess public support for bus service and recommend how to expand it, from both technical and political points of view.

Says the key to more riders is to have more buses that are easier to use, run on time and get people where they want to go. That will take time, but it's important to get cars off the street and to cut down on energy use and pollution.

Wants the city to hire a professional manager. Says the mayor should not try to manage the system. Says low-income people and those with disabilities need buses more than students.

STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND TRAILS

Wants to address street needs using a "traffic demand management tool kit" that would promote carpooling, a better bus system and staggered commute times.

Wants to make Clark Lane safe for pedestrians and people in wheelchairs. Figuring out to keep streets and infrastructure below them in shape is a priority, but money is a challenge.

Says the first thing to do is to fix sewer and stormwater infrastructure below the streets. Those problems, he notes, are more serious but not as noticeable as potholes.

MU ENROLLMENT

Says rising enrollment is good for the economy. Believes that it makes sense to have students living downtown but that the city has to get ahead of transportation needs.

Says it's important to ensure students contribute to the local economy and to provide jobs for them. Students should live close to campus, and the city must ensure adequate parking and infrastructure.

Says the city should benefit from increased sales tax revenue that comes with higher enrollment and that C-2 zoning needs to ensure adequate parking and height restrictions on student apartments downtown.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Says that increased staffing is important and that community policing has proved successful in helping build trust between community leaders and law enforcement.

Calls for better customer service from the department. Wants precinct patrols so that residents know the police serving their area.

Believes personnel changes might be necessary to build trust between officers and police administration.

CRIME

Says community policing helps officers build social capital. Wants to empower neighborhood associations, particularly in the First Ward.

Says police should focus on speeding. Regarding violent crime, he says police should focus on hot spots and get the people they know are responsible for break-ins and shootings off the streets.

Says that a better court system would help keep violent criminals off the streets and that creating more jobs for young people would reduce crime.

OTHER PRIORITIES

Says Fourth Ward residents continue to worry that the city will widen West Broadway between Clinkscales Road and Aldeah Avenue. Believes that is unnecessary if the city controls traffic congestion.

Wants to connect Scott Boulevard to I-70 and establish a school in southwest Columbia. Wants to improve West Boulevard and Broadway in the Old Southwest and address aging sewer systems.

Wants to focus on infrastructure, particularly water, sewer and stormwater lines.